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REPORT

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_____ a report dealing with locations of operating and non-operating uranium mines in Poland.

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Uranium Mines

(March 1958)

General Remarks on Uranium Exploration and Mining

After the war the Soviets turned their attention to geological explorations for the discovery of uranium deposits in Lower Silesia, where the Germans had already opened and worked the Kowary uranium mine.

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The uranium-bearing area in question is located between Luban and Raciborz.

Before Gomulka came to Power, the ore used to be shipped to the USSR, with Poland receiving little or no compensation. When the mining activities were turned over to the Poles, the USSR was reluctant to pay a fair price for the ore and remained the only buyer on the market, for it seems that the Soviets forbade Poland to export uranium ore to any other country. Then, in order to avoid large deficits, the Polish government suspended mining activity in some uranium mines and reduced it in others. Actually, some mines had been shut down for the same reason even before 1956.

It is said, however, that the uranium ore now being mined is paid for by the USSR at the prevailing world market price.

It is also said that about the end of 1957 or the beginning of 1958 the Kowary directorate of nonferrous ore mines resumed geological explorations for radio-active ore throughout Lower Silesia. These explorations, however, are being conducted with Soviet technical assistance.

The Soviets began their uranium mining activity in 1945-1946, keeping in operation the Kowary mine, which had been opened up by the Germans. Meanwhile, they carried on geological explorations and, beginning in 1948, opened up new mining shafts at the Kowary mine. Then they gradually opened up additional uranium mines at the following places (listed in chronological order):

1. Ladek Zdroj (formerly Landek).
2. Russinowo, located about 4 kilometers from Walbrzych.
3. Wojczescjcz, located near Ceplice, about 3 kilometers from Jelenia Gora.
4. Greifow Slonsky (formerly Greiffenberg).
5. Grczyn, located about 30 kilometers from Wufka Slonsky.
6. Okseczyn, located on the Polish-Czechoslovak border near Kamienna Gora.
7. Glubczyce.

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Ladek Zdroy Mine

Closed in 1955 because "operating costs were not offset sufficiently by the value of the uranium ore extracted."

Russinovo (formerly Julianov) Mine

Opened in 1949 and closed in 1955 because it was operating at a deficit.

"Mietsko" Mine at Walbrzych

This is a coal mine which in 1951 began to extract uranium ore found in combination with the coal. In 1953 uranium ore extraction was suspended because the amount of ore obtained was very small.

However, exploration was continued in the area in subsequent years, because an ever greater amount of radioactivity was found when drillings were made for coal mining.

As a result, uranium ore (not mixed with coal) was discovered in the area in considerable quantities and with a high percentage of radioactivity. Rational exploitation of those deposits was began in February 1957. Since January 1958, exploration is being conducted for the discovery of additional uranium ore deposits in the area.

Wojczescycze Mine

Operations were suspended in 1956.

Greifow Slonsky Mine

Operations were suspended in 1957.

Grczin [sic] Mine

Still in operation as of March 1958, although it is said that it will be closed down shortly.

Okseczyn Mine

Operations began in 1953 with the opening of two 400-meter shafts. The necessary geological explorations lasted 3 years.

The mine is very near the Polish-Czechoslovak border. The deposit consisted of a vein which extended into Czechoslovakia.

The mine was closed down in 1957 because tunneling had reached the Polish-Czechoslovak border. Meanwhile, the Czechs continued to exploit the deposit on their side of the border.

Glubczyce Mine

This mine was opened "recently" and is still in operation.

Uranium Ore Sorting Plant at Kowary

All the uranium ore extracted in the area is brought to the Kowary sorting plant, from whence it is brought by Soviet military trucks to one of the two airports of Legnica for air shipment to the USSR.

The sorted ore is put in cylindrical metal containers, each about 50 centimeters in diameter and about 60 centimeters in length, with the lid screwed down.

Other Radioactive Ore Mines and Explorations

Pyrite mining activity is going on in southeastern Poland, about 150 kilometers from Starachowice.

Extraction of radioactive ore was begun in 1953 and suspended in 1955. [] unable to state whether the radioactive ore was mixed with pyrite or was found in a separate deposit.

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Explorations for radioactive ores have also been carried out, in the Zakopane area, but with negative results.

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